



California Department of Fish and Game Deer Management Program 2004 Deer Zone Information

Wildlife Programs Branch
1812 9th Street Sacramento, CA 95814

Eastern Sierra and Inland Deserts Region

General Deer Hunting Information For

ZONE D-17

(No Additional Hunts Scheduled)

GENERAL INFORMATION FOR DEER HUNT ZONE

This information sheet has been prepared to assist deer hunters applying for, or planning to hunt in, Zone D-17 located in portions of Inyo, Kern, Los Angeles and San Bernardino counties. The following information should be useful to hunters for archery and general seasons as well as any "additional hunts" within this geographic area. For more specific information or additional questions regarding this area contact the Eastern Sierra and Inland Deserts Region Office, 4775 Bird Farm Road, Chino Hills, CA 91709 (909-597-9823).

REGULATIONS

Laws and regulations are designed to conserve wildlife and to provide for an equitable distribution of game mammals. The hunter who knows the laws and regulations can enjoy the hunting experience more. All hunters should read and be familiar with the current hunting regulations available online at: http://www.dfg.ca.gov/fg_comm/2004/mammalregs04.html Remember you must obtain and have in your possession written permission to hunt on private property. Hunter trespass laws are strictly enforced.

The 2004 deer hunting regulations specific for Zone D-17 (archery and general season) and any additional hunts are listed at the end of this sheet. To hunt deer in Zone D-17, hunters must possess a Zone D-17 deer tag. This tag is valid during the archery or general season using the appropriate method of take.

Additionally, Archery Only #1 Tags (AO#1) and Archery Only #2 Tags (AO#2) are valid during the Zone D-17 archery or general season using archery equipment only.

Any additional deer hunts in Zone D-17 are listed in the Additional Deer Hunts section, below. Typically, tags for additional deer hunts are in high demand and distributed through the Department's Big Game Drawing held in June. To receive tags for many of these hunts, hunters must plan ahead and are encouraged to submit deer tag applications by late May. For information regarding deer tag application procedures and obtaining a deer tag for this area see the Big Game Hunting Booklet, available on-line at: <http://www.dfg.ca.gov/licensing/biggame/biggamebook.html>

Successful hunters are reminded to immediately fill out both portions of the tag and permanently mark the date of kill; attach the tag to the antlers, or ear if antlerless; have the tag validated and countersigned; and return the completed report card portion to the department within 30 days of taking a deer.

LAND OWNERSHIP/PUBLIC LAND OPPORTUNITIES

Zone D-17 is primarily public land with the exception of a few, small private property in-holdings within the

Mojave National Preserve. Deer are known to occur only in that portion of Zone D-17 situated within eastern San Bernardino County. Almost the entire area where deer can be found in Zone D-17 was designated by Congress in 1994 as the Mojave National Preserve, administered by the National Park Service (NPS). The northern portions of the Clark Mountains and the Kingston Range are administered by the U. S. Bureau of Land Management (BLM). For information regarding these lands contact the following:

NPS Offices:

National Park Service (NPS), 222 E. Main St., Barstow, CA 92311 (760-255-8800)

BLM Offices:

Barstow Field Office, 2601 Barstow Road, Barstow, CA 92311 (760-252-6000)

Needles Field Office, 101 W. Spikes Road, Needles, CA 92363 (760-326-7000)

In Zone D-17 and other zones throughout California, additional deer hunting opportunities may exist on private property licensed through the Department's Private Lands Management Program (PLM). For more information on the PLM and to obtain a list of participating ranches, go to the following link:

<http://www.dfg.ca.gov/hunting/deer/plm.html>

MAPS

For general maps detailing individual zone or additional deer hunt boundaries, go to the following link:

http://www.dfg.ca.gov/hunting/deer/deer_maps.html

The Automobile Club of Southern California (AAA) map for San Bernardino County provides a good, large scale overview of roads open within wilderness boundaries. In addition, both NPS and BLM maps are available. NPS maps can be obtained by contacting the Mojave National Preserve visitor center located in Baker (760-733-4040). BLM surface management maps can be purchased at BLM district offices or you can contact the BLM at 2800 Cottage Way, Suite W-1834, Sacramento, CA 95825 (916-978-4400).

U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) topographic maps, are very helpful, especially for topographic features that are not displayed on USFS or BLM maps. USGS maps may be available from sporting goods, backpacking or engineering stores or you can contact the USGS directly at: Rocky Mountain Mapping Center, Branch of Information Services, Box 25286, Denver, CO 80225 (888-ASK-USGS). Some specific 7.5 minute quadrangle maps for the zone include: Midhills, Cima Dome, Clark Mountain, Joshua, Ivanpah, Cima, Pinto Valley, Hayden, Columbia Mountain and Woods Mountain.

ACCESS/MAJOR ROADS

Primary approach to Zone D-17 hunt areas is via Interstate Highways 15 and 40 from Barstow. Secondary access roads leading from those highways are Kelbaker, Cima, Nipton to Ivanpah, Essex, Goffs to Landfair, Excelsior Mine and Yates Well roads. Many County, NPS, BLM and other dirt roads, including Black Mountain, Wildhorse Canyon, Cedar Canyon, and Green Wells roads, provide final access to hunting areas. With passage of the 1994 Desert Protection Act, some existing roads were and are closed to accommodate wilderness area designation as demanded by the new law. Although some access availability is hampered by the act, admittance generally remains fair to good at most locations. Hunters need to be aware of safety closure areas surrounding two NPS campgrounds.

WEATHER CONDITIONS/TRAVEL TIPS

The weather in this region is highly variable so BE PREPARED. Warm days and cool nights are typical during the Zone D-17 hunt season. However, hot days are always a possibility and wind conditions can change quickly. Hunters are advised to dress in layered clothing and always be prepared for possible desert showers.

Zone D-17 encompasses a large geographic area, and hunters are advised to assure gasoline tanks are full before entering the backcountry. Terrain can be sandy and flat to steep and rocky. As is the case for all remote area travel, hunters should take along a shovel, serviceable spare tire, and lots of extra food and water. Within the Zone D-17 hunting areas, four-wheel-drive vehicles are not required; however,

some areas have sand and steep roads in which case four-wheel-drive is needed. Be sure to use extra caution when driving off-road and check with NPS or BLM regarding vehicle travel restrictions that may be in place. Note that only street-legal licensed vehicles are allowed within the Mojave National Preserve; green-sticker vehicles are not permitted. While horses can improve hunter access to some Zone D-17 locations, it must be remembered that water is in short supply throughout the desert. Check with NPS and BLM for information regarding area livestock forage conditions.

CAMPING

There are two designated NPS campgrounds within Zone D-17, a primitive site at Mid Hills that provides water and pit toilets and a slightly more improved facility at Hole-In-The-Wall. Mid Hills is located at a higher elevation, within pinyon and juniper treed areas; Hole-In-The-Wall is located in the lower desert area. Camping outside designated camping areas is permitted in BLM and NPS areas, as long as the site has been previously used as a camping area. Firewood is scarce throughout the Zone D-17 desert, and firewood collecting is prohibited within the Mojave National Preserve. Hunters must supply campfire material.

Please, DO NOT CAMP at springs or other water sources important to wildlife and livestock. This is especially crucial in this desert environment. Camping, hunting or occupying the area within 200 yards of springs or other wildlife water source for more than 30 minutes is a violation of Fish and Game regulation (Title 14, Section 730). Such precious spots provide important watering sites for wildlife. YOU can pack water, birds and animals can't!

HARVEST INFORMATION

Information on deer harvest for this area is available in tables contained in the annual Deer Kill Reports available on-line at: <http://www.dfg.ca.gov/hunting/deer/deerhunt.html> The most useful tables for the purposes of planning or applying for hunts in this area are Tables 1b (Harvest and Success Information), 2a (Antler Class Information) and 10b (Drawing Statistics).

HERD CONDITIONS AND HABITATS

The deer population in Zone D-17 is considered stable. Short-term fluctuations are usually attributed to weather events that affect forage production and the availability of water.

The subspecies of deer inhabiting Zone D-17 are a mixture Rocky Mountain mule deer, California mule deer, and Southern mule deer that were translocated into the Providence Mountains area from 1945 through 1948. Today, deer in Zone D-17 can be found throughout mountainous areas from 4,000 to 8,000 feet elevation, but are not typically concentrated in any particular location. Deer in Zone D-17 are considered resident deer. That is, their movement is up and down the slopes, they do not make long seasonal migrations.

Deer forage and vegetation preferences vary, and deer can be found from desert wash to pinyon and juniper tree habitats. However the distribution of deer in Zone D-17 is usually associated within close proximity to bitterbrush.

HUNTING TIPS AND WHERE TO LOOK FOR DEER

Successful hunters often spend a considerable amount of time scouting pre-season, locating individual or groups of deer, recently used deer trails, and feeding and bedding areas. You may not see many deer from the roads in this area and generally the more successful hunters do more hiking to locate deer. Binoculars and/or spotting scopes can be very helpful for locating and identifying deer at greater distances. In general, attempt to hunt areas that are away from other activities such as concentrations of hunters, vehicles, and/or livestock. Deer in this desert environment occur in scattered populations at extremely low densities which are generally associated with permanent water sources. Deer populations may disperse somewhat following periods of significant rainfall that have resulted in flushes of vegetation.

Hunters should scout within the 4,000-8,000 foot elevation range near the top of the Clark and Kingston Mountains. Successful Zone D-17 hunters harvest from 30 to 50 bucks during a typical hunt season. The following areas have historically provided the majority of the deer kill in Zone D-17 (in descending order of

reported deer-take): Mid Hills, New York Mountains, Providence Mountains, Clark Mountains, Mescal, Cima Dome, Castle, Kingston Range, and Granite Mountains.

For additional information about deer hunting in California, see the Department's publication "Guide To Hunting Deer In California" at the following web site:

<http://www.dfg.ca.gov/hunting/deer/deerguide.pdf>

ADDITIONAL DEER HUNTS

In 2004, there are no additional deer hunts scheduled in Zone D-17.

2004 ZONE AND ADDITIONAL HUNT SPECIFIC REGULATIONS

§ 360. Deer.

Except as otherwise provided in this Title 14, deer may be taken only as follows:

(a) A, B, C, and D Zone Hunts.

(16) Zone D-17.

(A) Area: Those portions of Inyo, Kern, Los Angeles and San Bernardino counties within a line beginning at Highway 395 and the Kern-Inyo county line; east along the Kern-Inyo county line to the San Bernardino-Inyo county line; east along the San Bernardino-Inyo county line to Highway 127; north along Highway 127 to the California-Nevada state line; south along the California-Nevada state line to the California-Arizona state line; south along the California-Arizona state line to Interstate 40; Interstate 40 north to Needles; Highway 95 south to Highway 62; west on Highway 62 to Highway 247; northwest on Highway 247 to Highway 18; west on Highway 18 to Bear Valley Cutoff Road; west on Bear Valley Cutoff Road to Interstate 15; north on Interstate 15 to Highway 18; west on Highways 18 and 138 to Highway 14; north on Highways 14 and 395 to the point of beginning.

(B) Season: The season in Zone D-17 shall open on the second Saturday in October and extend for 23 consecutive days.

(C) Bag and Possession Limit: One buck, forked horn (See subsection 351(a)) or better per tag.

(D) Number of Tags: 500.

§ 361. Archery Deer Hunting.

(a) Archery Hunting With General Deer Zone Tags. Deer may be taken during the archery season only with archery equipment specified in Section 354 as follows:

(4) D Zones.

(E) Zones D-14, D-16, D-17 and D-19.

1. Area: As described in subsection 360(a)(13)(A), (15)(A), (16)(A) and (17)(A), respectively.

2. Season: The archery season in zones D-14, D-16, D-17 and D-19 shall open on the first Saturday in September and extend for 23 consecutive days.

3. Bag and Possession Limit: One buck, forked horn (see subsection 351(a)) or better per tag.

(c) Archery Hunting with Archery Only Tags. Deer may be taken only with archery equipment specified in Section 354, during the archery seasons and general seasons as follows:

(1) Number of Archery Only Tags Permitted. A person may obtain an archery only tag using a one-deer tag application and a second archery only tag using a second deer tag application.

(2) Zones in Which Archery Only Tags are Valid. An archery only tag is valid for hunt G-10, and during the archery season and general season in all zones except C-1 through C-4 and X-1 through X-12.

(3) Areas: As described in subsections 360(a) and (c).

(4) Seasons: The archery season and general seasons are provided in subsection 361(a) above and in subsections 360(a) and (c).

(5) Bag and Possession Limit: All bag and possession limits per zone are the same as those described in subsections 360(a) and (c).

(d) Hunting Area Limitations. Archers not in possession of an archery only tag may hunt only in the zone, zones, or areas for which they have a general tag or an area-specific archery tag. (Refer to subsection 361(c)(2) for zones in which archery only tags are valid).

(e) Crossbow Prohibition. Except as provided in subsection 354(j), crossbows may not be used during any archery season or during the general season when using an archery only tag.

**** GOOD LUCK! ****